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**HOUSE COMMITTEES**

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House Committee on Workforce
Development

Kevin McManus

August 8, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Re: LightSquared

Dear Secretary Dortch:

As a legislator, I often hear from constituents about their lack of job opportunities and economic growth for their communities. Access to technology, and specifically high-speed wireless access, is a significant component to improving education, economic and job opportunities. Sadly, we still see a sizeable digital divide in our country.

Private-sector investment in broadband networks can bridge that divide. A specific example is LightSquared, a company that plans to roll out a next-generation broadband wireless network nationally within the next few years, bringing state-of-the-art high-speed Internet to wireless devices in Missouri – and in some parts of the state, for the first time ever.

LightSquared's network will cost the company more than \$25 billion in private investment, but it will bring \$120 billion in benefits to U.S. consumers according to one estimate. The company's wholesale-only business model will enable retailers, cable operators, device manufacturers, online content providers, and other communications service providers to provide retail broadband services, benefitting American consumers with additional competitors.

LightSquared's network will combine traditional cell phone towers with satellite capabilities, providing a seamless backup in the case of natural disasters or other emergencies – something those of us in the Midwest know all too much about.

I understand the FCC is working with LightSquared and other stakeholders to assure that this innovative new network can move forward without interfering with existing telecommunications services. I hope that you will continue to work to find a way to allow this network to deploy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. McManus".

Kevin McManus
State Representative
Missouri District 46